

Young King Josiah

ILLUSTRATED SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

By Alfred J. Bueschler

Scripture—II Chronicles 34; Nahum.



Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign. While he was still young he turned to God. Under his direction the altars of Baalim and the other heathen images were broken down and utterly destroyed.

Next Josiah ordered the temple restored. He sent three men to the high priest Hilkiah with money to get workmen and building materials. The carpenters and builders took the money, bought materials and did the work faithfully.

While the temple was being restored, a priest—probably Hilkiah—found an old book of the Law. Hilkiah gave it to Shaphan who had brought the money for the work, and he took it to the king, and read it to him.

When Josiah heard the book read, he rent his clothes. He then called his people together, read the book to them, and commanded them to keep God's statutes with all their hearts.

MEMORY VERSE—Isaiah 1:16, 17.

The Golden Text



Josiah's good reign.

"Cease to do evil; learn to do well; seek judgment."—Isaiah 1:16, 17.

Young King Josiah

HE TURNED HIS PEOPLE BACK TO GOD

Scripture—II Chronicles 34; Nahum.

By NEWMAN CAMPBELL

AFTER MANASSEH, who reigned in Judah for 50 years, Amon reigned for only a little over a year, when he was killed by his own servants. This was one of the longest periods of spiritual and moral disintegration that Judah had ever known. Amon's son, Josiah, a boy of eight, succeeded him, and, strange to relate, his thoughts turned to God while he was still a child. Whether he had a good God-fearing mother who had brought him up to revere Jehovah we do not know. Certain it is that he "walked in the way of the Lord," as had his ancestor, David.

The first thing he did was to have all the heathen idols and costly high places torn down and utterly destroyed. He even burned the bones of the heathen priests upon their altars, thus "cleansing Judah and Jerusalem." He then did the same in the cities of Ephraim, Manasseh and Simeon, even unto Naphtali.

And when he had broken down the altars and the groves, and had beaten the graven images into powder, and cut down all the idols throughout all the land of Israel, he returned to Jerusalem.

faithful these ancient workmen were in their task.

Now comes the most dramatic moment in all Judah's history. In overhauling the building, going through rooms that probably had not been looked into for years, a priest—it may have been Hilkiah—found an ancient "book of the law of the Lord given by Moses."

Hilkiah, the priest, told Shaphan, the scribe, and gave the book to him, and he carried it to the king.

When Josiah heard it read, he rent his clothes. What was in the book of the law to make the king so desperate? There are indications, writes Biblical authority, that the book contained dire threats against Judah, "which made Josiah tremble, even in spite of his own readiness to walk in the way of the Lord." It is called, "the book of the covenant."

Josiah was overcome by his sense of the holiness of God, and his own sinfulness. He had consulted Huldah, a prophetess, who had foreseen the evil which eventually overcame Judah after Josiah's righteous reign, but she had also prophesied that since Josiah's heart was tender and he had humbled himself before the

MEMORY VERSE

"Cease to do evil; learn to do well; seek judgment."—Isaiah 1:16, 17.

We can imagine that many of the younger Sunday school pupils and also older ones, would have been happy to help King Josiah in this work if they had lived in those old days, and been inspired by his righteous indignation.

In the 18th year of his reign, Josiah had purged the land and the house, so he sent for Shaphan Maaseiah, the governor of the city; and Joah, the son of Joahaz the recorder, to repair the house of the Lord.

The three went to Hilkiah, the high priest, and gave him the money "that was brought into the house of God, which the Levites that kept the doors had gathered of the hand of Manasseh and Ephraim, and of all the remnant of Israel, and of all Judah and Benjamin."

They put the money into the hands of the workmen that had oversight of the repairs, the overseers or superintendents, we may suppose, to buy the necessary materials.

"And the men did work faithfully," we are told: Today when we find some of the work done by modern workers is not done as "faithfully" as one could wish, it is good to know how loyal and

Lord, these things would not happen during his lifetime.

"Then the king sent and gathered all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem. And the king went up into the house of the Lord, and all the men of Judah, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and the priests, and the Levites, and all the people, great and small; and he read in their ears all the words of the book of the covenant that was found in the house of the Lord.

"And the king stood in his place, and made a covenant before the Lord, to walk after the Lord, and to keep His testimonies, and His statutes, with all his heart, and with all his soul, to perform the words of the covenant which are written in this book."

"And all his days Josiah and his people departed not from following the Lord, the God of their fathers."

The prophecies of Nahum, which are also included in our lesson, are terrible indeed. The theme is the punishment of the enemies of Judah, especially the city of Nineveh. We have no space here to include more of it in this lesson.

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UNIONVILLE NEWS

The Unionville Horticultural Society will hold the June Flower Show on June 16th in the basement of Central United Church. Entries for all exhibits of members must be placed between 3.30 and 5 p.m. Convener of this show is Mrs. F. Warne. Judge will be Miss Jane Little of Richmond Hill, Gardening Editor of Canadian Homes and Gardens.

Mr. and Mrs. Ross Heimler attended the Hodges - Sutton wedding at St. Mary's Church, Richmond Hill on Saturday.

Miss Margaret Martin of Toronto visited her mother, Mrs. Martin, on Tuesday night.

Mrs. A. E. Milner, Unionville, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. and Miss Galbraith of Port Colborne spent a few days this week visiting friends at Napanee.

Mrs. Edna Wake of Ottawa and Mrs. Talbert Findlay of Thornhill visited with Mrs. Rainey on Friday evening.

Mrs. Fred Reesor and daughter and Peter of Port Perry visited on Tuesday with Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Powers.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Thomson spent the past weekend at the home of their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Clara at Napanee.

Miss Eleanor Johnson of Glen Major spent a few days this week with Miss Margaret Rainey.

Mr. Neil Hayes a former softball player will be the captain of the Unionville Lumberjacks, formerly the Indians. This team is sponsored by Unionville Lumber Co. Next week they play a series with the Agincourt Fleeters at Unionville on June 2nd.

Mr. Will Bradley, Mr. Bert Norton, Mr. Robert Gough, Mr. Allan Holmes and Mr. John Momen attended the Air Show at Exhibition Park on Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. George Hirst and Gina of Markham visited Mr. L. McMullen on Saturday evening.

Messrs. Arnold and Grover Burgis are home from college and are spending the holiday months with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. S. G. Burgis.

Mr. Milton Findley, Miss Verna Findley, Mr. and Mrs. James McLaren attended the Brooklin Fair on Saturday afternoon.

Mrs. W. Coulson expects to spend a holiday with her relatives at Atley this coming week.

Mr. and Mrs. Berzswilkes and family have rented and moved to the Myri Smith property north of Unionville.

The Unionville branch of the Women's Institute met at the home of Mrs. J. Champlon for the regular monthly meeting on June 2nd. There were seventeen members and the following four visitors present: Mrs. Milne, Mrs. Jacobs, Mrs. Henwood, Mrs. Featherstonehaugh. Mrs. H. Brookfield was elected as con-

venor for the sewing committee of the Spring Fair, which is to be held on June 22nd at the home of Mrs. Clark Young. Mrs. Furneaux, president of the Markham W.I. will open the fair. Costumes for Markham Fair were discussed and executives announced that Fifty Years Progress with Antiques had been chosen for the Markham Fair Project. A request letter was read from Mr. D. Phillips, Chairman of the Unionville Swimming Club. It was moved by Mrs. G. G. Maynard and Mrs. J. Cockeran that we send \$25. to the fund. Mrs. W. Champlon gave a short reading taken from the Family Herald, giving a description of a barn owned by Mrs. Agnew, an Institute member, 1 mile south of Edgeley which is being taken over for the Ontario Agriculture Museum. The secretary read a letter from Alice Anderson, York South, in regards to the W.I. Rally at Sharon Thursday, July 7th. Mrs. G. G. Maynard gave a report of the recent O.A.C. conference. Five members attended the 50th anniversary of the Stouffville Branch last Monday. The extension course was discussed and the courses of making slip covers and choosing of fabrics were decided on. Mrs. H. Boadway, District Director, gave a fine report of the District Annual Meeting held in Agincourt in May. She described a hobo tea and recommended it as a splendid way of raising funds. Mrs. H. Coathup gave an interesting talk on the B. & P. Convention highlights which she recently attended at the United Nations Building in New York. A lovely lunch was served by the hostesses, Mrs. G. Ogden and Mrs. L. Rainey.

The Gleaners of St. Philip's Anglican Church held their meeting in the church hall. Mrs. W. Stewart the treasurer read her report which showed a substantial balance. A contribution was voted to the Unionville Swimming Club to which Board Mrs. H. Holdsworth was appointed as church representative. The meetings for the months of July and August will be withdrawn. Mrs. E. Little, sewing convener, received a vote of thanks for the lovely quilt which had been made and was on display. Refreshments were served by the hostesses, Mrs. Stewart and Mrs. Weyman. At the Sunday morning service of prayer the following girls of the Junior Auxillary under the leadership of Miss Astrid Weyman received the stripes and badges. First stripes were presented to April Featherstonehaugh, Dorothy McArthur, Helen Skelton and Gwen Thorn. Those receiving Second stripes were Sandra Austin, Heather Cribbitt, April Featherstonehaugh, Lynn Harrington, Bonnie Jones, Sharon LaMorla, Sandra Maynard, Joan Smith, Kathy Webb & Martham Webb. The special Winchester Badge of Merit for outstanding work and attendance was awarded to April Featherstonehaugh, Lynn Harrington, Bonnie Jones, Sandra Maynard and Kathy Webb.

Mr. and Mrs. Dowe and family of Goodwood visited Mr. L. McMullen on Wednesday night.

Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Coathup, Mr. and Mrs. F. Warne, Mr. and Mrs. E. Appleton of Unionville attended the Lions Club convention at Chateau Frontenac, Quebec, last week. They stopped off at Montreal for the weekend on their return journey.

Markham-Unionville B. & P. Women's Club held the May meeting at the home of Mrs. Lynn Hughes on Monday eve-

ning. At the close of the business session the officers for the coming year were elected as follows: Past Pres., Eva Coathup; Pres., Marian Warne; 1st Vice, Mrs. Eileen Butterfield; 2nd Vice, Mrs. Marie Dawin; Sec., Maybelle Wideman; Cor. Sec., Theresa Heimler; Treas., Pearl Rainey; Publicity Convener, Mildred Chisholm; Soc. Con., Isabelle Billingsley; Prog. Con., Mary Findlay; Emblem Con., Grace McArthur; Rep. for Unionville Swimming Club, Lynn Hughes.

Mrs. T. Burnett's visitors of last week were Miss Judith Haatanen and Miss Patricia Gohn, registered nurses from Medical College, Richmond, Va., and Mrs. Leggett and J. and W. Joyce of Toronto.

The United Church Sunday School Anniversary will be held on Sunday, June 19th at 11.00 a.m.

Mr. and Mrs. David MacKinlay and children David and Lynda of Ajax visited with her mother, Mrs. Rainey and Margaret on Sunday.

Sunday guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jonas Ramer were Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hadlagd of Baden, and Miss Nelda Gigerich and Mr. Douglas Horst of Kitchener.

Mrs. J. Hood, Mr. and Mrs. Norman Anderson and family, Don and Marilyn, attended their family picnic held at the home of Mr. Adam Hood, Wexford on

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PEACH'S Centennial Services

SUNDAY, JUNE 12, 1955

11.00 a.m.—Guest Speaker: Rev. Ralph King, B.A., B.D., Whitvale.

Special Music by the Junior Choir of Knox Presbyterian Church — Agincourt. Decoration Service

2.30 p.m.—Guest Speaker: Rev. Geo. E. Robins, B.A., Orillia.

Special Music by Former Choir Members and The Peach's Quartette.

7.30 p.m.—Guest Speaker: Rev. A. J. Orr, Mount Hope.

Special Music by Former Choir Members and The Peach's Quartette.

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